

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A combined splint and cast for immobilizing ~~[[the]]~~ an injured body part ~~due to fracture, ligament rupture, dislocation or the like,~~ the combined splint and cast comprising:

a foot fixing member assembly including ~~[[the]]~~ discrete upper foot fixing member and ~~[[the]]~~ lower foot fixing members which form a pair for immobilizing the region from ~~[[the]]~~ a sole (metatarsal bones) of a foot to a portion above ~~[[the]]~~ an ankle ~~(below the soleus muscle) of the foot;~~

a connecting member assembly including ~~[[the]]~~ discrete upper connecting member and ~~[[the]]~~ lower connecting members which form a pair for immobilizing the region from the ankle to ~~[[the]]~~ a portion below ~~[[the]]~~ a knee above the ankle; and

a knee fixing member for immobilizing the region from the knee to ~~[[the]]~~ a middle portion of ~~[[the]]~~ a femur above the knee,

wherein the foot fixing member assembly, the connecting member assembly and the knee fixing member ~~can be~~ are used individually or cooperatively by being coupled to each other ~~by means of belts.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The combined splint and cast as defined in claim 1, wherein the foot fixing member assembly, the connecting member assembly and the knee fixing member are injection molded.

3. (Currently Amended) The combined splint and cast as defined in claim 1, wherein the lower foot fixing member of the foot fixing member assembly includes:

a vertical wall ~~[[in]]~~ which is adapted to have the sole ~~[[is]]~~ seated thereagainst;

a horizontal wall ~~[[in]]~~ which is adapted to have the heel and the ankle ~~[[are]]~~ seated thereagainst for surrounding the foot together with the vertical wall by being bent from the vertical wall;

a plurality of first holes formed at ~~[[the]]~~ a front portion of the horizontal wall such that the connecting member assembly is inserted into the lower foot fixing member up to the front portion of the horizontal wall and the connecting member assembly is coupled to the lower foot fixing member with ~~[[bolts]]~~ fasteners inserted through the ~~[[bolt]]~~ first holes;

a plurality of second holes formed at opposite lateral sides of the vertical wall and the horizontal wall;

a buffering material arranged in ~~[[the]]~~ an inner face thereof of the lower foot fixing member for wrapping the foot; and

a fastener tape with one end fixed to any one of the second holes and the other end fixed to the upper foot fixing member which is formed in such a manner as to cover the top of the foot and be coupled to the vertical wall for adjusting the contact condition between the upper foot fixing member and the lower foot fixing member.

4. (Currently Amended) The combined splint and cast as defined in claim ~~[[1 or]]~~ 3, wherein the upper foot fixing member of the foot fixing member assembly is used in cooperation with the lower foot fixing member when being used on the foot, and includes:

a round part adapted to be in a close contact with the top of the foot;

a buffering material arranged in ~~[[the]]~~ an inner face thereof of the upper foot fixing member for softly wrapping the top of the foot;

a plurality of ventilation holes formed on ~~[[the]]~~ an inner peripheral surface thereof of the upper foot fixing member for allowing air circulation; and

a plurality of holes formed on both lateral sides of ~~[[the]]~~ a middle portion thereof of the upper foot fixing member for being fastened by the other end of the fastener tape fixed to the lower fixing member.

5. (Currently Amended) The combined splint and cast as defined in claim 1, wherein the lower connecting member of the connecting member assembly is adapted to wrap the region from the ankle to a portion below the knee, and includes:

a buffering material arranged in the inner face thereof of the lower connecting member;

a plurality of ~~[[bolt]]~~ first holes formed at ~~[[the]]~~ front and rear surfaces thereof of the lower connecting member at equal intervals for allowing length adjustment and fastened to one end of the foot fixing member with ~~bolts~~ fasteners;

a plurality of ventilation holes formed at opposite lateral sides on ~~[[the]]~~ an inner peripheral surface thereof of the lower connecting member in a longitudinal direction;

a plurality of second holes formed at ~~[[the]]~~ opposite lateral sides of the front and rear portions thereof of the lower connecting member; and

a fastener tape with one end fixed to any one of the second holes and the other end inserted into a remaining one of the second holes for securely wrapping ~~[[the]]~~ a tibia and ~~[[the]]~~ a fibula of the portion below the knee.

6. (Currently Amended) The combined splint and cast as defined in claim ~~[[1 or]]~~ 5, wherein the upper connecting member of the connecting ~~member~~ assembly includes:

a buffering material arranged in ~~[[the]]~~ an inner face, thereof of the upper connecting member for wrapping the upper portion of the tibia and the fibula;

a plurality of ventilation holes formed at ~~[[the]]~~ opposite lateral sides on ~~[[the]]~~ an inner peripheral surface thereof of the upper connecting member in a longitudinal direction for allowing smooth air circulation; and

a plurality of first holes formed at both sides of ~~[[the]]~~ front and rear portions of the upper connecting member for being fastened by the other end of the fastener tape which is fixed to the lower connecting member.

7. (Currently Amended) The combined splint and cast as defined in claim 1, wherein the knee fixing member is positioned beneath the knee, and includes:

a buffering material arranged in ~~[[the]]~~ an inner face thereof of the knee fixing member for immobilizing the knee;

a plurality of ~~belts~~ first holes formed at ~~[[the]]~~ a front portion ~~thereof~~ of the knee fixing member such that the rear portion of the connecting member assembly is coupled to the knee fixing member with ~~belts~~ fasteners inserted through the ~~[[bolt]]~~ first holes;

a plurality of second holes formed at both sides of ~~[[the]]~~ front and rear portions ~~thereof~~ of the knee fixing member; and

a fastener tape with one end fixed to any one of the second holes and the other end coupled with an opposed one of the second holes for securely wrapping the knee.

8. (New) The combined splint and cast as defined in claim 1, wherein the upper foot fixing member of the foot fixing assembly is used in cooperation with the lower foot fixing member when being used on the foot, and includes:

a round part adapted to be in a close contact with the top of the foot;

a buffering material arranged in an inner face of the upper foot fixing member for softly wrapping the top of the foot;

a plurality of ventilation holes formed on an inner peripheral surface of the upper foot fixing member for allowing air circulation; and

a plurality of holes formed on both lateral sides of a middle portion of the upper foot fixing member for being fastened by a fastener tape fixed to the lower fixing member.

9. (New) The combined splint and cast as defined in claim 1, wherein the upper connecting member of the connecting assembly includes:

a buffering material arranged in an inner face, of the upper connecting member for wrapping the upper portion of a tibia and a fibula of a portion below the knee;

a plurality of ventilation holes formed at opposite lateral sides on an inner peripheral surface of the upper connecting member in a longitudinal direction for allowing smooth air circulation; and

a plurality of first holes formed at both sides of front and rear portions of the upper connecting member for being fastened by the other end of the fastener tape which is fixed to the lower connecting member.

10. (New) The combined splint and cast as defined in claim 1, wherein the foot fixing assembly, the connecting assembly and the knee fixing member are used individually or cooperatively by being coupled to each other with bolts.

11. (New) An orthodic device, comprising:

a foot fixing assembly including an upper foot fixing member and a lower foot fixing member which together form a pair for immobilizing a region extending from a sole of a foot to a portion above an ankle of the foot;

a connecting assembly including an upper connecting member and a lower connecting member which together form a pair for immobilizing a region from the ankle to a portion below a knee to which the ankle is connected; and

a knee fixing member for immobilizing a region from the knee to a middle portion of a femur connected to the knee,

wherein the foot fixing assembly, the connecting assembly and the knee fixing member are used separately or at least two adjacent ones of the foot fixing assembly, the connecting assembly and the knee fixing member are used cooperatively by being fastened together.

12. (New) The orthodic device as defined in claim 11, wherein the foot fixing assembly, the connecting assembly and the knee fixing member are used separately or cooperatively by being fastened with bolts.

13. (New) The orthodic device as defined in claim 11, wherein the foot fixing assembly, the connecting assembly and the knee fixing member are injection molded.

14. (New) The orthodic device as defined in claim 1, wherein the lower foot fixing member includes:

a first wall against which a sole is adapted to be positioned;

a second wall against which the heel and the ankle are adapted to be positioned for surrounding the foot together with the first wall, the first and second walls are oriented approximately normal relative to one another;

a plurality of first apertures formed in the second wall which are adapted to connect the lower foot fixing member to the connecting assembly;

a plurality of second apertures formed in the first wall and the horizontal wall;

a fastener tape with one end fixed to one of the second apertures and the other end fixed to the upper foot fixing member for covering a top of the foot and being coupled to the first wall for adjusting the contact condition between the upper foot fixing member and the lower foot fixing member.

15. (New) The orthodic device as defined in claim 14, wherein the upper foot fixing member is used in cooperation with the lower foot fixing member, the upper foot fixing member including:

a round part for contacting a top of the foot;

a plurality of ventilation apertures formed in the upper foot fixing member for air circulation; and

a plurality of apertures formed on the upper foot fixing member for being fastened by the other end of the fastener tape fixed to the lower fixing member.

16. (New) The orthodic device as defined in claim 11, wherein the upper foot fixing member and the lower foot fixing member are used cooperatively, the upper foot fixing member including:

a round part for contacting a top of the foot;

a plurality of ventilation apertures formed in the upper foot fixing member for air circulation; and

a plurality of apertures formed in the upper foot fixing member for being fastened by a fastener tape fixed to the lower fixing member.

17. (New) The orthodic device as defined in claim 11, wherein the lower connecting member is adapted to wrap the region from the ankle to a portion below the knee, the lower connecting member including:

a plurality of first apertures formed in the lower connecting member at equal intervals for allowing length adjustment and fastened to one end of the foot fixing member;

a plurality of ventilation apertures formed in the lower connecting member in a longitudinal direction;

a plurality of second apertures formed in the lower connecting member; and

a fastener tape with one end fixed to one of the second apertures and the other end inserted into a remaining one of the second apertures for securely wrapping a tibia and fibula of the portion below the knee.

18. (New) The orthodic device as defined in claim 17, wherein the upper connecting member includes:

a plurality of ventilation apertures formed in the upper connecting member in a longitudinal direction for allowing air circulation; and

a plurality of apertures formed in the upper connecting member for being fastened by the other end of the fastener tape which is fixed to the lower connecting member.

19. (New) The orthodic device as defined in claim 11, wherein the upper connecting member includes:

a plurality of ventilation apertures formed in the upper connecting member in a longitudinal direction for air circulation; and

a plurality of apertures formed in the upper connecting member for being fastened by fastener tape which is fixed to the lower connecting member.

20. (New) The orthodic device as defined in claim 1, wherein the knee fixing member includes:

a plurality of first apertures formed in the knee fixing member for coupling the knee fixing member to the connecting assembly;

a plurality of second apertures formed in the knee fixing member; and

a fastener tape with one end fixed to one of the second apertures and the other end coupled with an opposed one of the second apertures for securely wrapping the knee.